

NKU GOLD RUSH

NOVEMBER 2015 NORTHERN KENTUCKY UNIVERSITY

GO FIGURE

\$8M

Investment to create the St. Elizabeth Healthcare Simulation Center in NKU's new Health Innovation Center

2

Horizon League tournament berths secured this fall by the Norse men's and women's soccer teams

38

Kentucky high schools or academies visited by President Geoffrey Mearns this fall on the "Road to NKU"



NKU, GOV. STEVE BESHEAR BREAK GROUND ON HEALTH INNOVATION CENTER

Imagine a world in which transdisciplinary teams – healthcare professionals, data experts, psychologists, and others – come together to study and find solutions to population health challenges such as addiction and chronic illness.

That is the ambitious vision behind Northern Kentucky University's new Health Innovation Center, which is now underway on NKU's Highland Heights campus. It is expected to open in 2018.

"This is an historic day for Northern Kentucky University," Beshear said at the Oct. 21 groundbreaking.

The Health Innovation Center will be home to the College of Health Professions and provide space to grow existing programs as well as add offerings, including an addiction science program.

"Our Health Innovation Center is more than a new building. It represents a new approach to education and to healthcare delivery," said NKU President Geoffrey S. Mearns. "We are proud to lead the way, with the help and support of our partners in Frankfort and in our local community."

The center will bring together experts from each of NKU's six colleges to create transdisciplinary teams to study health care from new perspectives. The approach will combine data analytics, psychology, preventative care, and holistic approaches to help address population health challenges such as addiction and chronic illness.

The project is funded by a \$97 million allocation from the Kentucky General Assembly. St. Elizabeth Healthcare has also invested \$8 million to construct and equip the two-story, state-of-the-art St. Elizabeth Healthcare Simulation Center, which will provide a real-world learning experience for students.

COLLEGE CORNER

COLLEGE OF INFORMATICS

NKU's Master of Business Informatics program is ranked 11th in the nation, according to *The Financial Engineer Times*. The ranking takes into account GMAT scores, undergraduate GPA, acceptance rate, post-graduation employment, and starting salary.

The program prepares students to help companies adapt to emerging technologies. MBI graduates are employed by firms such as Procter & Gamble, Great American Financial, and Citigroup.

LEARN MORE: http://www.nku.edu/news/_151009MBIranking.html

NKU UNVEILS NEW CAMPUS RECREATION CENTER



From 84,000 square feet to 169,000. From 7 windows to 677. From a 250,000-gallon pool to 375,000 gallons. NKU's newly-expanded and renovated Campus Recreation Center is not your typical gym.

The \$48 million center takes the fitness experience to a new level with state-of-the-art facilities and amenities such as a bouldering wall, multi-activity court, deep-water diving well with a climbing feature, and study and gathering areas for students.

The previous center, built in 1984, was designed for 3,000 students. NKU now serves more than 15,000 students, who approved a fee to fund the new recreation space and provided input throughout the planning process.

The Campus Recreation Center is intended to be a hub for student engagement and a center for involvement by the university community. It is also environmentally-friendly: the LEED Silver facility is heated and cooled by 80 new geothermal wells, each 400 feet deep.



THE SCOREBOARD

NKU's NCAA Division I men's basketball team has embarked upon its inaugural season in the Horizon League under new head coach John Brannen.

Brannen comes to NKU from Alabama, where he guided the Crimson Tide to a first-round victory in the 2015 NIT. The Covington native is a graduate of Marshall University.

He has promised an aggressive style of play by the Norse: "We're going to play 94 feet both ways."

FACULTY FOCUS

Dr. Linda Wermeling traveled to Ukraine this fall to assist in social work curriculum development at Volodymyr Hnatyuk Ternopil National Pedagogical University.

She is one of just 400 U.S. faculty and professionals to travel abroad this year as part of the prestigious Fulbright Scholar Specialists Program, which pairs them with institutions around the world in need of their expertise.

Wermeling specializes in a problem-based, team-based approach to social work education. In Ukraine, she advised social work faculty in curriculum development, conducted seminars, and consulted with university administrators.

READ MORE: http://www.nku.edu/news/_151006fulbrightspecialists.html

BRIEFS

U.S. NEWS & WORLD REPORT RANKS NKU AMONG TOP SCHOOLS IN AMERICA

Northern Kentucky University is among the top higher education institutions in America, according to new rankings by *U.S. News & World Report*.

NKU is ranked 80th among regional universities in the South, and ranked 38th among public schools in the South. The university also made the list of Best Colleges for Veterans and the list of Best Undergraduate Business Programs.

"These rankings reinforce that something special is happening at NKU," said NKU President Geoffrey S. Mearns.

READ MORE:

https://www.nku.edu/news/_150915usnewsrankings.html

HIGHLAND HEIGHTS, NKU RANK SEVENTH ON LIST OF '50 SAFEST COLLEGE TOWNS IN AMERICA'

Highland Heights, home to Northern Kentucky University, is the seventh safest college town in America, according to Safewise.

The Utah-based security and crime prevention firm used FBI crime statistics as well as research about crime prevention efforts to compile its rankings.

The company praised the University Police Department for its outreach to students and the Highland Heights Police Department for its efforts to educate and inform the community.

READ MORE:

https://www.nku.edu/news/_150923safestcollegetowns.html

HAILE/US BANK COLLEGE OF BUSINESS NAMED A PRINCETON REVIEW 'BEST BUSINESS SCHOOL'

NKU's Haile/US Bank College of Business is again one of the nation's best business schools.

The college is included in The Princeton Review's *The Best 295 Business Schools* for the fourth year.

The Princeton Review surveyed business students about their school's academics, student body, campus life, and their own career plans. NKU's College of Business earned high marks for its rigorous curriculum and experienced faculty, as well as small class sizes and flexible scheduling.

READ MORE:

http://www.nku.edu/news/_151014princetonreview.html

NKU HONORED WITH ROLE MODELS AWARD FOR COMMITMENT TO DIVERSITY

NKU's commitment to inclusiveness and diversity is earning national attention.

Minority Access, a nonprofit committed to increasing diversity, decreasing disparities, and reducing incidences of environmental injustices, has recognized those efforts with its Role Models Award.

The University accepted the award at the National Role Models Conference, one of the most prestigious conferences of its kind addressing issues of diversity and disparities in the nation.

READ MORE:

<https://www.nku.edu/news/150831minorityaward.html>

ALUMNI NEWS



Julie and David Schneider wanted to help NKU students reach for the stars – so the Boone County couple donated an observatory on the roof of the University's tallest academic building.

The Julie and David Schneider Observatory will provide a research laboratory for NKU students and faculty as well as for community members. The 1,000 square-foot facility features a retractable roof and eight permanent telescopes.

Julie Schneider ('87) is owner and operator of Schneider Homes Inc. and Castle Bluff Developments. David Schneider ('86) is CEO of Walton-based Rem-Brands and holds several chemical patents.

"Julie and I hope many will enjoy the Schneider Observatory for years to come," Schneider said.

READ MORE: [HTTP://WWW.NKU.EDU/NEWS/_150826SCHNEIDEROBSERVATORY.HTML](http://www.nku.edu/news/_150826SCHNEIDEROBSERVATORY.HTML)